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See Last Tuesday's Paper for Prices

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SAYS THE RAMBLING REPORTER

Being the Highlights of Fifteen Years' Experience in Gathering the News

Most any newspaper man, good, bad or indifferent, packs away a wealth of experience if he takes advantage of the facilities provided by modern transportation during his more or less tender youth, and travels some.

Many of those experiences are unique, for the business of collecting news for the grind of the daily press establishes for the reporter contacts with persons and conditions not always possible for followers of more lucrative but less interesting vocations.

It is even possible that a newspaper man, confronted with the necessity of having to write something, may recount his own experiences without branding himself boastful.

The politician tells in his speeches of his record in office.

The business man publishes the printed message of his wares in the press.

Professional men adopt less outspoken but quite effective means of establishing themselves and their capabilities in the public eye.

So why shouldn't the reporter, about his wares, as well as his bewares, in the columns he helps build?

Why, not, indeed?

And the answer to that "why not" appears herewith and will follow in various issues hereafter until the well of personal experience in the noble profession of news-gathering is drained dry.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY DENBY is much in the news these days, albeit to his displeasure.

It hurts Denby. Despite a show of courage in the face of adverse publicity, the Detroit man is unusually sensitive, as the following incident may reveal.

In 1920, when Warren Harding was running for president, Denby was a tentative candidate for governor of Michigan.

I can Legno was to be held in Flint, Michigan, where I was editing a paper.

Denby announced his intention of attending this meeting and proposed to make a speech.

As an ex-marine he was welcome. But as a candidate for office he was not so welcome.

The Legion was young. Its entrance into politics might be its death. The paper I was editing published an editorial charging that Denby was injuring the Legion by speaking before it while a candidate for governor. The editorial questioned the motive of the prominent Detroit, hinting that it might be political.

I was on the reception committee to meet Mr. Denby at the Flint Country club for dinner before the Legion meeting.

When I arrived at the club Mr. Denby and the other three members of the committee were already present. Denby was reading the editorial about him and the Legion.

As I came up he finished it, and was introduced.

Displeasure was written all over his face.

"I have just read an editorial in

your Flint paper," he said. "It charges me with using the Legion to promote my candidacy. Have you read the editorial, Mr. Kingsley?"

"I wrote it," I replied.

Needless to say the dinner of the reception committee and the guest was somewhat formal and restrained.

But equally interesting is the fact that Denby informed me that he would never again make a speech at a Legion meeting while a candidate for office. And he never did.

WHEN Theodore Roosevelt was running for president on the Progressive ticket in 1912 I was reporting politics for a Michigan daily. When Teddy made his swing through Michigan I was assigned to meet his train at the state border, get an exclusive interview with him for the paper, wire it to Flint, and come on home with the candidate.

I was pretty young at the game in those days and, like all young reporters, probably had more "crust" than tact. I met the train, but was informed by men in the press car, just ahead of Roosevelt's private Pullman, that the ex-president was in important conference.

I knew that the competitor paper in my town had a man at the next station to meet the train, and I couldn't wait. So despite warnings from the other press men I went into Teddy's car.

What I saw there and what Mr. Roosevelt said to me I never wrote in a news story, but related it by word of mouth on several occasions. I saw much. But I didn't get an interview and was summarily dismissed from the car by Teddy himself—which, despite his abruptness, I considered a bit of an honor.

A few months later the famous libel suit brought by Roosevelt against Editor Newell of Upper Michigan was being tried. At the time of the trial I was state editor of the Detroit Journal, and was astonished one day during the trial to receive a long distance call from Marquette from one of Newell's attorneys, who asked me if I would testify against T. R. You remember that Roosevelt was suing because Newell had accused him editorially of being a drunkard.

I didn't want to testify against Teddy. I admired him too much, and besides, what evidence I had was entirely circumstantial.

"Will you tell what you saw on the train that day. We have information that you saw much that would be of interest to the jury."

"Your information is wrong," I replied. "I saw nothing that the jury would be interested in hearing about."

And yet — Well, I wiggled out of the mess into which a too ready tongue had placed me.

But I learned this out of the experience:

If you see something that you aren't supposed to see, it's just as well to keep your mouth shut.

W. H. K.

George OUR BOY REPORTER



It's the 1st of the month but we got out all of the bills last nite. It's a hollerday in Honduras today because its the day the hed presidunt goes in and the old wun goes out. Down in Mexico they dont have no reglar day for that the cheef sed.

Jim dash

Docter R. A. Hoag wich is the dentist has moved down to the new Edison bildin wich used to be in the Erwin bildin if you want to get your tooth pulled out wich is aiken.

Jim dash

Docter Maude Wildes down to the high school this afternoon tellin the story of life and how to tell it but you haff to take your baby down to Reeve's hardware store or Paige's groshry store and check it before you go. I gess they dont want no baby's there because they make too much noise. To the lecker I mean.

Jim dash

You can go down to see the Wallace Gilbert's now if you want to because they have lifted off the quarnteen wich is to keep people from ketchin it.

Jim dash

Mister James Milburn went down to Huntington Park to see sum people wich is Mister and Mrs. Chas. Oxley and Mrs. Milburn went also. And Doris. So I gess they stade for cats

Jim dash

Mister Mark Porter was down to Davidson city with 3 lady's. Wun was Mrs. Porter but I dont no the rest.

Jim dash

Mister F. D. Murray wich sells land down to Paso Robles told the cheef he ought to get me to rite news for both papers evry Tuesday and Friday also and the cheef sed well you go out and get up a pitishun astin us to get him to rite 2 times a week and then we will see if we can. I gess he's trade I wood ast for a raze. The cheef is I mean.

Jim dash

Rita Wood was down to Mister Paul Harestad's and stade all nite from Long Beach. Her and Mrs. Harestad's dandy friends for a long time I gess because they call each other there 1st name's.

Jim dash

Mrs. Harry Thompson was down to L. Angles but she cum home and din't stay all nite. The P. E. runs all nite pretty near so you can always get the P. E. home less you stop and look in all the winders from the show to the depow my fother sed like my mother wants to sumtimes.

Like when they went to see Pavlowa wich is the Rushian dancer.

Jim dash

Mrs. Luther Hyde was down to L. Angles but she stade lotsa nites because she was visitin Park Hyde wich is her son. I gess he will be down here for a cupple nites pretty soon now. I spose they took in lotsa shows wile she was there.

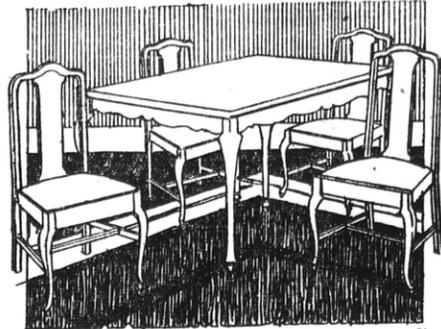
Jim dash

I am down to the bottom of my paper now ennyhow but I no a cupple a more things to rite about but the cheef sed we are two full this week ennyhow.

Ten-acre chicken ranches near Riverside. \$1500; \$150, \$15 per month. Inquire A. T. Havens Co., 25890 Governor Ave., Harbor City. On the Anaheim-Redondo Blvd. Phone Lomita 215.—Adv.

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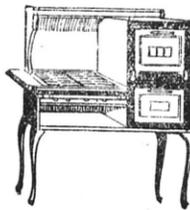
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